

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Office of Fossil Energy  
Washington, D.C.**

**FE Docket No. EA-212-B**

**CORAL POWER, LLC.**

**Order Authorizing Electricity Exports to Mexico**

**Order No. EA-212-B**

**August 26, 2002**

## **CORAL POWER, L.L.C.**

### **ORDER NO. EA-212-B**

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. §824a(e)).

On June 9, 1999, the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) authorized Coral Power, L.L.C. (Coral) to transmit electric energy from the United States to Mexico using the international electric transmission facilities presently owned by San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), El Paso Electric Company (EPE), Central Power and Light Company (CPL), and Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE), the national utility of Mexico. That two-year authorization (Order EA-212) expired on August 13, 2001.

On June 27, 2001, Coral filed an application with FE for renewal of its export authorization. That two-year authorization (Order EA-212-A) expires on August 13, 2003.

On July 8, 2002, Coral filed an application with FE to amend the existing export authorization contained in Order No. EA-212-A in order to add to the list of authorized export points the double-circuit 230,000-volt (230-kV) electric transmission line owned and operated by Baja California Power, Inc. (BCP) and authorized by Presidential Permit PP-234. DOE granted Presidential Permit PP-234 to BCP on December 5, 2001. The PP-234 facilities extend from SDG&E's Imperial Valley Substation to the La Rosita Power Complex (LRPC) under construction in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. The electric energy that Coral proposes to export using the PP-234 facilities is intended to be used only for start-up of the generating units and other related plant operations at the LRPC. Coral also asserts that electricity exported using the PP-234 facilities will not be delivered to the CFE electric system. Coral also requested that its authorization be extended for a five year period.

Notice of the Coral export application was placed in the *Federal Register* on August 8, 2002 (67 FR 51549) requesting that comments, protests, and petitions to intervene be submitted to DOE by August 23, 2002. None were received.

#### **II. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

The authority requested of DOE by Coral is a necessary condition for exporting under section 202(e) of the FPA. Coral must make the necessary commercial arrangements, including obtaining all necessary transmission access required to wheel the exported energy to the foreign purchaser, and obtain any and all other regulatory approvals which may be required in order to

effect the export. In considering the Coral request for service, the transmitting utilities would have to assess the electric reliability impacts of moving the export through their system and, presumably, would only provide service under terms and conditions that would not cause reliability problems on their system.

An export authorization issued under section 202(e) does not impose on transmitting utilities a requirement to provide service. However, DOE expects transmitting utilities owning border facilities to provide access across the border in accordance with the principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination contained in the FPA and articulated in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order No. 888, as amended (Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities; FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶31,036 (1996)), as amended. The actual rates, terms and conditions of transmission service shall be consistent with the non-discrimination principles of the FPA and the transmitting utility's Open Access Transmission Tariff on file with the FERC.

All recipients of export authorizations, including owners of border facilities for which Presidential permits have been issued, are required by their export authorization to conduct operations in accordance with the principles of the FPA and pertinent rules, regulations and orders, which include the comparable open access provisions of FERC Order No. 888, as amended. Cross-border electric trade ought to be subject to the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to transmission in interstate commerce. (See Enron Power Marketing, Inc., 77 FERC ¶ 61,013 (1996).) Thus, DOE expects owners of border facilities to comply with the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to the domestic interstate transmission of electricity.

Before an electricity export authorization is granted, DOE must find that the proposed export will not impair the sufficiency of electric supply within the U.S. and that it will not impede the coordinated use of regional transmission facilities. DOE has always used a flexible approach in determining the information necessary to evaluate reliability impacts for specific export proposals. In determining reliability impact for exports by power marketers or other entities operating in a similar manner, DOE has used a combination of established industry guidelines, operating procedures and/or infrastructure, as well as technical studies supporting authorizations issued for traditional entities operating at the border. Allowing these existing technical studies to suffice in this docket is sound and, thus, DOE need not perform additional reliability assessments here, provided the maximum rate of transmission for all exports through a border system does not exceed the previously authorized limit of the system.

The electric power Coral proposes to export to the Mexican powerplant over the PP-234 facilities will be purchased from the competitive U.S. market. As such, power can only be exported if it is available for purchase and if an entity is willing to sell it. This fact alone precludes the export from adversely impacting on the sufficiency of supply within the United States. Furthermore, the amount of power proposed for export (17 MW) is de minimis. In addition, the transmission system within the State of California is operated by the California



Independent System Operator (CAISO) which schedules the movement of electric energy consistent with electric system capabilities and established operating reliability criteria of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council and the North American Electric Reliability Organization. Therefore, the requested export also would not impede the coordination of regional transmission facilities.

### **III. FINDING**

DOE has assessed the impact that the proposed export would have on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. Based on the above discussion and analysis, DOE has determined that the export of electric energy to Mexico as requested by Coral would not impair the sufficiency of electric power supply within the United States and would not impede or tend to impede the coordination in the public interest of facilities provided that, for exports through the system of SDG&E and BCP, Coral coordinate exports with SDG&E and/or the control area operator or Independent System Operator (ISO), as appropriate, such that total exports across the SDG&E/CFE interconnection are in conformity with the operating limitations established by the SDG&E/CFE operating nomogram and the Southern California Import Transmission Nomogram. For exports through the system of EPE, Coral shall coordinate such exports with EPE and/or the control area operator or ISO, as appropriate, such that total exports across the EPE/CFE interconnection are in conformity with the requirements of the Southern New Mexico Import Nomogram that governs the amount of imports allowed into the Southern New Mexico area. These nomograms are on file in the Office of Fossil Energy for public review.

The circumstances described in the Coral application, for exports using the international transmission facilities currently owned by SDG&E, EPE, CPL, and CFE are virtually identical to those for which export authority had previously been granted in FE Order EA-212. For exports using these facilities DOE believes that it has adequately satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 through the documentation of a categorical exclusion in the FE Docket EA-212 proceeding.

For exports using the PP-234 facilities, DOE has previously determined that authorizing the proposed export of electricity would not constitute a major Federal action which could significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. DOE has documented the rationale supporting this finding in a Finding of No Significant Impact, dated December 5, 2001, and prepared in connection with Presidential Permit PP-234 granted to Baja California Power Inc.

### **IV. ORDER**

Based on the above, the electricity export authorization issued to Coral in Order EA-212-A is hereby superseded and rescinded and it is hereby ordered that Coral is authorized to export electric energy to Mexico under the following terms and conditions:

(A) The electric energy exported by Coral pursuant to this Order may be delivered to Mexico only over the following international transmission facilities:

<u>Present Owner</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Voltage</u>	<u>Presidential Permit No.</u>
SDG&E	Miguel, CA	230 kV	PP-68
	Imperial Valley, CA	230 kV	PP-79
EPE	Diablo, NM	115 kV	PP-92
	Ascarate, TX	115 kV	PP-48
CPL	Brownsville, TX	138 kV	PP-94
		69 kV	PP-94
CFE	Eagle, Pass, TX	138 kV	PP-50
	Laredo, TX	138 kV	PP-57
	Falcon Dam, TX	138 kV	None
BCP	Imperial Valley, CA	2-230 kV	PP-234

(B) Exports authorized herein shall not cause a violation of the terms and conditions contained in existing export authorizations associated with the international transmission facilities identified in paragraph (A). Specifically:

(1) Exports made by Coral pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on a combination of the facilities authorized by Presidential Permits PP-68 and PP-79 to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 400 megawatts (MW). All exports made pursuant to this Order must be consistent with the operating limitations established by the SDG&E/CFE operating nomogram and the Southern California Import Transmission Nomogram.

(2) Exports made by Coral pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on a combination of the facilities authorized by Presidential Permits PP-48 and PP-92 to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 200 MW. All exports made pursuant to this Order must be consistent with the operating limitations of the Southern New Mexico Import Nomogram.

(3) Exports made by Coral shall not cause the total exports on a combination of the 138-kV facilities at the Falcon Dam and the facilities authorized by Presidential Permits PP-50, PP-57, and PP-94 to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 600 MW during those times when the CPL system is at minimum load condition. During all other load conditions on the CPL system, exports by Coral over the facilities identified in this subparagraph shall not cause the maximum rate of transmission to exceed:



(a) 300 MW for the 138-kV and 69-kV facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-94; or,

(b) 50 MW total for the 138-kV facilities at Falcon Dam and those authorized by Presidential Permits PP-50 and PP-57.

(4) Exports made by Coral pursuant to this Order shall not exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 17 MW on the facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-234.

(C) Amendment of the export authorizations from which the export limits contained in subparagraphs (B)(1) through (B)(4) were derived shall result in a concomitant change to the export limits contained in those subparagraphs. Notice will be provided to Coral of any amendments to existing export authorizations that would impact on this Order.

(D) Coral may commence exports only over those international transmission lines identified in paragraph (A) for which Coral provides DOE written evidence that sufficient transmission service has been obtained for delivery of the exported energy to the border. This evidence can consist of signed letters of agreement for the service between Coral and the Presidential permit holder and should identify specific facilities by name and Presidential permit number.

(E) In scheduling the delivery of electricity exports to Mexico, Coral shall comply with all reliability criteria, standards, and guides of the North American Electric Reliability Council, Regional Councils, or independent system operators, as appropriate, on such terms as expressed therein, and as such criteria, standards, and guides may be amended from time to time.

(F) Coral shall conduct all operations pursuant to the authorization hereby granted in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Power Act and pertinent rules, regulations, and orders adopted or issued thereunder, including the comparable open access provisions of FERC Order No. 888, as amended.

(G) The authorization herein granted may be modified from time to time or terminated by further order of the DOE. In no event shall such authorization to export over a particular transmission facility identified in paragraph (A) extend beyond the date of termination of the Presidential permit authorizing such facility.

(H) This authorization shall be without prejudice to the authority of any State or State regulatory commission for the exercise of any lawful authority vested in such State or State regulatory commission.

(I) Coral shall make and preserve full and complete records with respect to the electric energy exported to Mexico. Coral shall furnish quarterly reports to the DOE, within 30 days following each calendar quarter, detailing for each month of the previous quarter: (1) the gross amount of electricity delivered, in kilowatt hours; (2) the consideration received for such energy;

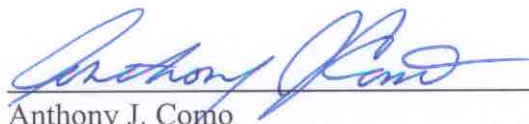
and (3) the maximum hourly rate of transmission, in kilowatts. Quarterly reports must be filed regardless of current activity and whether or not deliveries of electric energy have been made. If no transactions have been made, a one-sentence report indicating "no activity" for the previous quarter is sufficient. Reports shall be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy, FE-27/Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585. Properly identified quarterly reports will also be accepted via facsimile at (202) 287-5736 to meet time requirements, but original copies should still be filed at the above address.

(J) In accordance with 10 C.F.R. §205.305, this authorization is not transferable or assignable, except in the event of the involuntary transfer of this authority by operation of law. Provided written notice of the involuntary transfer is given DOE within 30 days, this authorization shall continue in effect temporarily. This continuance also is contingent on the filing of an application for permanent authorization within 60 days of the involuntary transfer; the authorization shall then remain effective until a decision is made on the new application. In the event of a proposed voluntary transfer of this authority to export electricity, the transferee and the transferor shall file jointly an application for a new export authorization, together with a statement of reasons for the transfer.

(K) Exports authorized herein shall be reduced or suspended, as appropriate, whenever a continuation of those exports would impair or tend to impair the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

(L) This authorization shall be effective for a period of five (5) years from the date of this Order. Application for renewal of this authorization may be filed within six months prior to expiration of this authorization.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on August 26, 2002.

  
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Anthony J. Como  
Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation  
Office of Coal & Power Import/Export  
Office of Coal & Power Systems  
Office of Fossil Energy